

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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R 290920 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2699

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3744

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJECT: MIYAMOTO REMARKS ON JCP- PRC RELATIONS

SUMMARY: IN MARCH 28 PRESS CONFERENCE, JCP CHIEFTAIN KENJI MIYAMOTO DENIED RUMORS THAT JCP AND PRC HAVE BEGUN MOVES TO PATCH UP THEIR RELATIONS. HOWEVER, IN REMARKS REPORTED BY MOST NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS ( BUT NOT AKAHATA), MIYAMOTO INTRODUCED NEW NOTE OF FLEXIBILITY IN JCP CONDITIONS FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. RESPONDING TO REPORTER' S QUESTIONS DURING MARCH 28 PRESS CONFERENCE, JCP CHIEFTAIN MIYAMOTO FLATLY DENIED RUMORS THAT JCP LEADERS AND PRC OFFICIALS HAVE MET SECRETLY TO DISCUSS IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS. HE WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT JCP IS PREPARED TO QTE NORMALIZED UNQTE RELATIONS WITH CCP PROVIDED CHINESE ( A) ABANDON ATTEMPT TO FORCE PARTICULAR POLICY LINE ON JCP, ( B) CEASE EFFORTS TO OVERTHROW JCP LEADERSHIP, AND ( C) WITHDRAW THEIR SUPPORT OF SPLINTER GROUPS EXPELLED FROM JCP. ASKED ABOUT CHINESE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH JCP, MIYAMOTO NOTED THAT PEOPLE' S DAILY HAS RECENTLY TONED DOWN ITS ATTACKS ON JCP BUT ATTRIBUTED THIS SOLELY TO CHINESE REALIZATION THAT CONTINUED ATTACKS ON JCP MIGHT BACKFIRE IN VIEW OF JCP' S ELECTORAL SUCCESS. NOTING REPORTS THAT  
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LIAO CHENG- CHIH RECENTLY SAID THAT CHINESE WOULD CONTINUE THEIR CRITICISM OF JCP, MIYAMOTO SAID THAT HE SAW LITTLE POSSIBILITY THAT CHINESE WOULD ACCEPT JCP' S CONDITIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. ACCORDING TO MOST PRESS REPORTS, MIYAMOTO WENT ON TO STATE EXPLICITLY THAT JCP WOULD NOT DEMAND THAT CHINESE APOLOGIZE FOR PAST INTERFERENCE IN JCP AFFAIRS. MAJOR NEWSPAPERS ALSO REPORTED THAT MIYAMOTO INDICATED THAT JCP MEMBERS WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT INVITATIONS TO CHINESE EMBASSY FUNCTIONS IN TOKYO EVEN IF CHINESE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY VOICE THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF JCP' S CONDITIONS FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS PROVIDED SUCH INVITATIONS WERE OFFERED IN QTE SPIRIT UNQTE OF ACCEPTANCE OF THOSE CONDITIONS. HOWEVER, THESE REMARKS, WHICH WERE UNIVERSALLY INTERPRETED AS SOFTENING OF JCP' S ATTITUDE TOWARD PRC, WERE OMITTED COMPLETELY FROM AKAHATA ACCOUNT OF MIYAMOTO' S PRESS CONFERENCE.

3. COMMENT: REPORTS THAT CHINESE CHARGE MI KUO- CHUN MET SECRETLY AT CHINESE INITIATIVE WITH JCP PRESIDUM MEMBER RECENTLY SURFACED IN WEEKLY MAGAZINES. INTEREST IN POSSIBLE RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN JCP AND PRC ALSO SPARKED BY FACT THAT JCP MEMBER OF LOWER HOUSE POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE ATTENDED RECENT RECEPTION IN HONOR OF VISITING CHINESE TELECOMMUNICATIONS MINISTER. WE AGREE THAT MIYAMOTO' S REMARKS AS REPORTED BY MAJOR NEWSPAPERS REPRESENT SOFTENING OF JCP' S CONDITIONS FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH PRC. CURIOUS DELETION BY AKAHATA OF QTE FLEXIBLE UNQTE PORTIONS OF MIYAMOTO' S REMARKS PROBABLY STEMS FROM JCP LEADERSHIP DESIRE TO MAINTAIN CLEAR POSITION VIS- A- VIS PARTY FOLLOWERS THAT CHINESE MUST TAKE INITIATIVE IF RELATIONS ARE TO BE IMPROVED. WE HAVE LITTLE DOUBT THAT JCP FEELS INCREASINGLY UNCOMFORTABLE IN ITS ISOLATION AS ONLY JAPANESE PARTY WITHOUT FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH PRC AND WOULD LIKE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS PROVIDED IT CAN DO SO WITHOUT APPEARING TO SACRIFICE ITS PRINCIPLES. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ENLIGHTENMENT AMCONSUL HONG KONG MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE REGARDING REPORTED CHINESE MOVES TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH JCP.

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